1. Afforestation programmes are being undertaken.

2. Guidelines have been issued to involve village communities in portection and regeneration of degraded forests through Joint Forest Management.

3. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate diversion of forest land.

4. A centrally sponsored scheme "Modern Forest Fire control Methods" is being implemented to protect and conserve the forests from fire.

5. Special measures for protection and conservation of tigers and elephants and their habitat are being implemented.

6. A network of 447 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 84 National parks covering 1,50,000 sq. kms. of forests has been set for conservation of wild flora and fauna.

Allotment of Forest Land to the Rural People

1425. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allotted forest land to the people in rural areas so that they get self-employment by planting fruits, trees and other crops; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details of land allotted during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 in the states, particularly in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) As per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 Rules and Guidelines, for allotment of any forest land to people for planting fruits trees and other crops, prior approval of the Central Government is required to be obtained under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The concerned State Governments are required to send a formal proposal in the format prescribed under Forest (conservation) Rules, 1981 in this regard. So far no such approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been accorded for allotment of forest land people for self-employment by planting of fruit trees and other crops.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions in India

1426. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has been critised in the recent UNDP report as being one of the nations with the highest emission of carbon dioxide and that the unchecked rate fo emission is likely to be the world's top pollutor in the years to come;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures contemplated by Government to make the environmental pollution programme in the country more effective to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI ' BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Human Development Report brought out by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1998 mainly examines the perspective of human development in the light of the present and projected future consumption patterns and their attendant effects on various socio-economic sectors, countrywise as well as globally. The report embodies that the fifth of the world's people in the highest-income countries account for 53% of carbon dioxide emissions, the poorest fifth for 3% and that Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico are among the developing countries with the highest emissions. The report also says that the annual emissions in developing countries are projected to more than double, though from

a much smaller base. It further suggests that if current trends continue, developing countries, with four-fifths of the world's population will account for nearly half the annual global carbon dioxide emissions, up from a third today; and that China and India will account for more than half the developing world total. However, the report duly admits the caution that despite demography levels in many developing countries, their per-capita emissions are still tiny and that the issue of carbon dioxide emissions must be seen in a historical context taking into account, cumulative a accumulation over many years.

(c) Despite the fact that neither its past accumulated green house gas (GHG) emissions nor their current levels require it, India has for quite sometime pursued GHG-friendly policies which have a positive impact in terms of reducing emissions. Such measures include fiscal and policy initiatives to improve the efficiency of conventional energy generation and use, development of major renewable energy programmes, promotion of clean coal and biomass energy technologies as well as conservation of forests. Several 'policy declaration' and 'acts' contribute to the minimization of GHG emissions in India. The policy declarations, namely, National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development (1992) and a Policy Statement on Abatement of Pollution (1992) provide for regulating various Environmental parameters. In addition to be Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; various other enactments such as the Air Pollution (prevention and control) Act, 1981, amended in 1987 and Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, amended in 1988, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (EPA 1986) provide for environment protection. The EPA (1986) enable the Government to further formulate statutory rules for fulfilling various requirements. Further, environmental impact assessment has been made statutory, for various development activities and there also exists the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (1991) for management of coastal zones.

Besides above, a comprehensive enforcement structure comprising central and state government agencies is in place, including the Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards/Committees. Seventeen categories of highly polluting industries are being rigorously monitored for compliance of the stipulated standards and a number of Common Effluent Treatment Plants are being set up for industrial units. Environmental Audit has been made compulsory for certain categories of industrial units. For controlling vehicular pollution, emission norms at the manufacturing stage have been introduced and gross emission standards for on-road vehicles for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles rules, 1989. Low load petrol had been introduced in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai w.e.f. June 1994. Effective from 1.9.1998, only unleaded petrol is being supplied in Delhi. Fiscal incentives are also provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas.

'Pollution of Betwa River by Som Distillery'

1427. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Som Disti llery has been mainly held responsible by the Committee on Petitions of Madhya Pradesh State Assembly for polluting Betwa river of Madhya Pradesh under National River Action Plan;

(b) if so, what action is being taken against the said factory by Pollution Control Board; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?